

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 06786 100123Z

42

ACTION ARA-20

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3216

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: VISIT OF CONGRESSMAN MURPHY

1. CONGRESSMAN MORGAN MURPHY (D, ILL.) AND NEWSMAN ROBERT WIEDRICH OF CHICAGO TRIBUNE PAID CALL ON ATTORNEY GENERAL OJEDA PAULLADA AUGUST 9. ACCOMPANYING THEM WERE DEA DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR HEATH, EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATOR ALBERTI AND DEA SPECIAL AGENT MEDINA. CALL WENT EXTREMELY WELL, WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL GIVING AN HOUR AND A HALF OF HIS TIME AND ANSWERING MANY QUESTIONS FROM BOTH CONGRESSMAN MURPHY AND MR. WIEDRICH. LATTER MADE IT PLAIN HE WAS NOT HERE TO CRITICIZE MEXICAN ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORT BUT TO DO A CONSTRUCTIVE, HELPFUL REPORT ON GOM/USG COOPERATIVE EFFORT. ATTORNEY GENERAL USED THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE TWO OF HIS FAVORITE POINTS:

(A) STATISTICS ARE OPEN TO VARIOUS INTERPRETATIONS AND CAN BE MOST MISLEADING; THEREFORE REPORTS OF VAST INCREASE OF PERCENTAGE OF MEXICAN HEROIN IN US SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AT FACE VALUE, SINCE (1) NOT ALL BROWN HEROIN IS OF MEXICAN ORIGIN AND (2) WE DO NOT HAVE ACCURATE PICTURE OF TOTAL US CONSUMPTION, WHETHER IT HAS REMAINED STABLE OR HAS ACTUALLY DECREASED.

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 06786 100123Z

(B) COMPLAINTS OF US CITIZENS THAT THEY ARE HELD IN

MEXICAN JAILS UP TO ONE YEAR WITHOUT TRIAL ARE NOT ACCURATE BECAUSE THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND THAT UNDER THE MEXICAN JUDICIAL SYSTEM THE TRIAL TAKES PLACE IN THE FIRST 72 HOURS FOLLOWING ARREST. THE REMAINING TIME (UP TO ONE YEAR) IS SPENT AWAITING FINAL SENTENCING BY THE COURT, AFTER JUDGE HAS WEIGHED ALL EVIDENCE SUBMITTED BY BOTH DEFENSE AND PROSECUTION.

2. CONGRESSMAN MURPHY AND MR. WIEDRICH WILL FLY TO CULIACAN, SINALOA EVENING OF AUGUST 9, AND WILL SPEND AUGUST 10 FLYING IN GOM HELICOPTER OVER POPPY AND MARIJUANA GROWING AREAS. THEY HAD SCHEDULED A CALL ON AMBASSADOR JOVA FOR AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 9, BUT WERE UNABLE TO KEEP APPOINTMENT DUE TO RUNNING LATE AT ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE. JOVA

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